

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection Service**

**Veterinary
Services**

**Professional
Development
Staff**

Training Courses

**Provided by the
Professional
Development
Staff**

**Professional Development Staff
Training Courses
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* These courses have a pre-determined audience where nominations are not requested. If you feel that you should attend a particular pre-selected course, please follow the nomination process and notify your supervisor and area Training Coordinator listed on the first page of the catalog.

NOMINATION/APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Each field nominee must submit a nomination request through the Area Office to the Regional Office. Each headquarters nominee must submit a nomination request through the Associate Deputy Administrator's Office, National Animal Health Policy Programs (NAHPP). The Regional Office and/or the NAHPP, Associate Deputy Administrator's Office will then submit the prioritized nominations to the nomination address listed in the course description. First priority is given to those individual(s) who are in absolute need of the training. More than one person may be placed in priority one status.

The Professional Development Staff cannot accept nominations directly unless they come through the Regional Office or the NAHPP, Associate Deputy Administrator's Office. If you have not nominated a participant, or have vacant position(s) will be filled, and want to reserve a space in the course, you may write "to be determined," or, "TBD" on the nomination form. Director approval is required for the named nominations, as well as a commitment to fill or cancel reserved spaces.

All training-related correspondence (select, non-select, cancellation, etc.) will be sent directly to the participants by email with copies to the VSMT, Training Coordinators, and supervisors. Hard copies will no longer be issued. Requests for exceptions may be made to the VS Training Coordinators.

COURSE DESCRIPTION















Each course description gives the course title, dates, purpose, and in some cases, objectives, eligibility, location, source person, and nomination contact person.

The course dates do not include travel dates. Travel dates are normally the day before the start of the course and the afternoon and evening of, or the day after, the end of the course.

CANCELLATION AND SUBSTITUTION POLICY

Based on each particular course, it is important that PDS be notified as soon as possible in the case of a substitution and/or withdrawal of a course participant(s). We will accept substitutions and cancellations up to 1 week before the start of the course. Any changes in the status of nominees or course logistics will be communicated immediately through the Training Coordinators.

Veterinary Services Careers Program (VSCP)

Location	Veterinary Services Careers Program (VSCP) training provides in-depth orientation and training opportunities to enable new VS employees to make the adjustment to the Federal service and have productive careers in APHIS. The training program consists of a combination of instructor-led courses and distance learning courses. Instructor-led courses are held at various sites throughout the United States. Distance learning courses are self-paced instruction units that are available on the USDA's web-based AgLearn Learning Management System (http://www.aglearn.usda.gov/) or, if necessary, on CD-ROM.			
<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Delivery Method</u>	<u>Training Site</u>	<u>Training Dates</u>	<u>Learning Track</u>
1. VSCP: Orientation, Part A		N/A	N/A	I & II
2. VSCP: Orientation, Part B		Riverdale, MD	Dec. 6 – 8, 2005	I & II
3. VSCP: Emerging Issues in Agriculture		Raleigh, NC	Feb. 22 – 24, 2006	I & II
4. VSCP: Communication and Managing Up		Ft. Collins, CO	Apr. 18 – 21, 2006	I
5. VSCP: Basic Epidemiology for AHTs	 + 	Ft. Collins, CO	Apr. 18 – 21, 2006	II
6. VSCP: Basic Epidemiology for VMOs	 + 	Ft. Collins, CO	June 5 – 9, 2006	II
7. Program Diseases		N/A	N/A	I & II
8. Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Awareness		N/A	N/A	I & II
Legend Distance Learning Course (AgLearn and CD-ROM)   Instructor-led Course  				
Purpose	The Veterinary Services Careers Program (VSCP) is designed to meet the need for highly skilled, forward-looking, well-trained veterinarians, and animal health personnel, as well as professional, administrative, and support staff, who are ready to meet the challenges of promoting the health and welfare of America's animals. See Course Description for detailed course information.			

Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VMOs and AHTs hired through the VSCP National Recruitment Program. • VS employees with no more than 2 years experience with VS and who meet nomination requirements. (See Nominations below.) <p>For information on the VSCP National Recruitment Program, go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/pub_vscareers.html or contact Ms. Eileen Cramer at (301) 734-3826.</p>
Cost	For VMOs and AHTs hired through the VSCP National Recruitment Program, travel and miscellaneous expenses for orientation and training are paid by the Professional Development Staff (PDS). Travel expenses for all other nominees are paid by the Professional Development Staff (PDS).
Contacts	Ms. Amy Kokesh, VS/PDS, (301) 734-0680
Nominations	<p>To be accepted into VSCP training, standard nomination/application procedures apply. Please note that “accepted” in this case means that applicants are: 1) placed in a learning track (Track I or II), based on employment status and job function; 2) provided professional counseling services for career development (e.g., learning contract); and, 3) given priority for attendance at instructor-led courses.</p> <p>Participants accepted for VSCP training must complete all training courses, as assigned, to receive full credit for completing VSCP training. Please note that formal nomination is not required to take distance learning courses on AgLearn. However, you must have a USDA eAuthentication account to access AgLearn.</p> <p>For additional information relating to VSCP courses, please go to: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/training/vs_careers-program/</p>

Veterinary Services Careers Program (VSCP)

Course Descriptions

1. **Learning Tracks:** With respect to the VSCP, Tracks I and II refer to the two paths of learning, or tracks, that nominees apply for in the VSCP. The learning tracks define the specific courses that one must complete to get full credit for completing the VSCP, based on his/her job function within VS. Track II was launched in 2001 and originally only applied to Veterinary Medical Officers (VMO) and Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) who were hired through the VSCP National Recruitment Program. Track II is currently open to employees working in VS technical/scientific positions. Track I is open to employees in administrative and support positions. VS employees who meet VSCP nomination requirements will be assigned to one of these tracks.

2. Distance Learning Courses

Distance learning (DL) allows VS employees to engage in learning opportunities from remote locations, such as taking online courses on the USDA's Learning Management System, AgLearn (<http://www.aglearn.usda.gov/>). The following online courses are part of the VSCP core curriculum and are mandatory for a participant to receive full credit for completing the VSCP.

- a. **Orientation, Part A (Tracks I & II)** – This online course provides basic information about the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its organizational units and programs, including Veterinary Services (VS). VSCP participants should complete this course before attending Orientation, Part B, which is classroom-based.
- b. **Program Diseases (Tracks I & II)** - This online course provides an overview of the major animal disease eradication and control programs, such tuberculosis, brucellosis, pseudorabies, scrapie, and Johne's. Equine and poultry disease initiatives are also addressed. Discussions about the various regulated industries, including their roles and perspectives, are included.
- c. **Foreign Animal Disease Awareness (Tracks I & II)** - This online course addresses major foreign animal disease threats to the U.S., including their history and etiology; effects on animal and human health; economical and political influences and impact; current status; preventive programs; and the critical role of APHIS, the States, Industry, and Public Health Officials.

3. Instructor-led Courses

The following classroom-based courses are part of the VSCP core curriculum and are mandatory for a participant to receive full credit for completing the VSCP.

- a. **Orientation, Part B (Tracks I & II):** In this course participants apply the knowledge they gained through the Orientation, Part A, in a series of interactive activities surrounding the VS strategic goals. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet and engage in discussion with various members of APHIS and VS management, and thereby gain further insight into the inner-workings of VS and its affiliated units.
- b. **Emerging Issues (Track II):** This course addresses new or emerging diseases, such as West Nile Virus; wildlife disease transmission; APHIS services to new animal industries, such as aquaculture, farmed elk, or bison; dealing with the threat of deliberate disease introduction; and future trends.
- c. **Basic Epidemiology (II):** This course uses a problem-based approach to teach the fundamentals of epidemiology. During this period, participants will also be introduced to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH).
- d. **Communication and Manage up Modules (Track I)** - This course is designed to develop the Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) to meet increasing customer demands and enhance career marketability. The participant will develop technical, interpersonal, and communication skills needed to improve self-confidence and help create team building opportunities.

<i>Agriculture Emergency Response Training (AgERT)</i>	
Location	<p>The Agriculture Emergency Response Training (AgERT) course is currently conducted at two sites. The first part of the training is conducted at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), Anniston, AL. The second part is conducted at Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn, AL</p> <p>CDP is operated by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness. For training schedule information, please go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/training/agert/.</p>
Course Purpose	<p>The AgERT course is currently a three-day course and is conducted monthly, but is subject to change later in the year. For the latest training schedule information, go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/training/agert/.</p> <p>The AgERT course focuses on training agriculture responders the basic all-hazards response skills required in the event of a WMD incident or agriculture disease outbreak (animal and plant). APHIS employees have the opportunity to learn how to recognize, react, and recover from a WMD or agricultural disease event and to practice agriculture protection skills with emergency responders from Federal, State, local, or tribal entities, including veterinary practitioners and traditional emergency responders (fire fighters, law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, etc.).</p>
Target Audience	The AgERT course is intended for agricultural responders (veterinary, veterinary technicians, epidemiologists, animal care and USDA animal health technicians) affiliated either directly or indirectly with the USDA/APHIS community and traditional responders (police, fire, and emergency medical services) from Federal, State, local, or tribal entities.
Cost	No tuition fee. Travel and living are funded by the employees' respective unit office.
Contact	<p>Mr. Raymond Francis, VS/PDS, (301) 734-0023 {Federal employees}</p> <p>Ms. Sandra Pagan, Center for Domestic Preparedness, (256) 847-2328 {Non-Federal employees}</p>
Nominations	For nomination instructions and other pre-course requirements and recommendations, please go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/training/agert/ .
Nomination Deadline	PDS must receive Federal worker nominations at least 3 weeks prior to the scheduled start of the course selected.

Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians' (FADD) Course		January 30 – February 10, 2006 March 20 – 31, 2006 June 5 – 16, 2006
Location	Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician Laboratory, Plum Island, New York	
Course Purpose	This intensive two week course will train foreign animal disease diagnosticians in investigating a potential foreign or emerging animal disease. Global impacts and trade considerations will also be addressed.	
Target Audience	APHIS field VMOs, state, and military veterinarians	
Cost	Travel costs only	
Contact	Ms. Elizabeth Clark, VS/PDS, (631) 323-3188	
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. State Veterinary nominees should be submitted to the Regional Offices by the AVIC, as well.	
Nomination Deadline	To the Regional Office: November 9, 2005 {January course} December 28, 2005 {March course} March 15, 2006 {June course}	
	To VS/PDS: November 16, 2005 {January course} January 4, 2006 {March course} March 22, 2006 {June course}	

<i>Foreign Animal Disease Practitioners' (FADP) Course</i>		<i>January 30 – February 3, 2006</i> <i>March 20 – 24, 2006</i> <i>June 5 – 9, 2006</i>
Location	Ames, Iowa {January Course, March Course, June Course} Raleigh, North Carolina {March Course} Riverdale, Maryland {January Course, March Course, June Course} Fort Collins, Colorado {June Course}	
Course Purpose	This intensive one week course will train field VMO's in investigating a potential foreign or emerging animal disease. This course will be running in conjunction with the FADD school on Plum Island. Participants will view the presentations via videoconference and live speakers and the afternoons will include viewing clinical round videos and laboratory exercises.	
Target Audience	APHIS field VMOs and state veterinarians who have not been previously trained in FAD, along with previously trained FADDs requesting a refresher course.	
Cost	Travel costs only	
Contact	Ms. Elizabeth Clark, VS/PDS, (631) 323-3188	
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax or email the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. State Veterinary nominees should be submitted to the Regional Offices by the AVIC, as well.	
Nomination Deadline	<p>To the Regional Office: November 9, 2005 {January Course} December 28, 2005 {March Course} March 15, 2006 {June Course}</p> <p>To VS/PDS: November 16, 2005 {January Course} January 4, 2006 {March Course} March 22, 2006 {June Course}</p>	

Location	Minnesota
Course Purpose	The training provides Veterinary Medical Officers with the information and tools needed to collaborate with the industry in designing Johne's control programs. Emphasis is placed on the practical application of risk assessments in developing a Johne's Disease herd management plan. Participants have the opportunity to practice skills in real or simulated (video-taped) farm visits. Topics of discussion include Johne's Disease pathogenesis and epidemiology; available diagnostic test/procedures and interpretation of results; regulatory issues; voluntary programs; and public health concerns.
Target Audience	Federal and State VMOs who are, or will be, involved in Johne's Disease program activities
Time Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 4 – 6 hours of online pre-course, self-paced study◆ 2 days of onsite training that includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 four-hour periods of instruction and group discussions• 2 four-hour periods of farm visits and group presentations
Cost	Travel costs only
Contact	Dr. Robert Dickens, VS/PDS, (919) 855-7171
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. Selections will be made by VS/NAHPP.
Nomination Deadline	To the Regional Office: January 19, 2006 To VS/PDS: January 26, 2006

<i>Basic Brucellosis Epidemiology (BBE)</i>		<i>April 25 – 27, 2006</i>
Location	Atlanta, Georgia	
Course Purpose	The purpose of this course is to train state or federal regulatory veterinarians in the principles of the brucellosis eradication program, including the organism, the disease, the epidemiology, the vaccines, etc.	
Target Audience	Federal and State VMOs who are, or will be, actively involved in the Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Program	
Time Requirements	3 days	
Cost	Travel costs only	
Contact	Mr. Edward Oliver, VS/PDS, (970) 494-7219	
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. Selections will be made by VS/NAHPP.	
Nomination Deadline	To the Regional Office: February 2, 2006 To VS/PDS: February 9, 2006	

<i>Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD) in Wildlife</i>		<i>May 16 – 18, 2006</i>
Location	Athens, Georgia	
Course Purpose	To familiarize participants with foreign and emerging animal diseases in wildlife and their implications.	
Target Audience	Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians (FADDs), Wildlife Biologists, state and Federal Veterinarians	
Time Requirements	3 days	
Cost	Travel costs only	
Contact	Ms. Nancy Platter, VS/PDS, (515) 663-7501	
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. Selections will be made by VS/Emergency Programs Staff and the Emergency Leadership Team. State Veterinary nominees should be submitted to the Regional Offices by the AVIC, as well.	
Nomination Deadline	To the Regional Office: February 16, 2006 To VS/PDS: February 23, 2006	

<i>Animal Identification Coordinator Workshop</i>		<i>May 16 – 18, 2006</i>
Location	San Antonio, Texas	
Course Purpose	This workshop introduces new animal identification concepts and provides current information resources relevant to animal identification initiatives needed to support VS programs. The training addresses significant new issues, trends, and developments affecting VS programs and the implementation strategies designed to achieve program goals. The training serves as an open forum in which Animal Identification Coordinators can network to share successes and challenges.	
Target Audience	Animal Identification Coordinators (AICs)	
Time Requirements	3 days	
Cost	Travel costs only	
Contact	Dr. Robert Dickens, VS/PDS, (919) 855-7171	
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. Selections will be made by VS/NAHPP.	
Nomination Deadline	To the Regional Office: February 23, 2006 To VS/PDS: March 2, 2006	

Location	National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), Ames, Iowa
Course Purpose	Upon course completion, the participant will fulfill the requirements and responsibilities involved in the Federal-State Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Program and the TB Eradication Program in Cervidae. The course provides information on TB pathology, immunology, testing, epidemiology, and surveillance. Current Program status and strategic goals, as well as issues such as TB in wildlife will also be addressed. The participant will gain skills in TB testing (comparative cervical tuberculin), interpretation of herd testing results, epidemiological investigations, and slaughter surveillance.
Target Audience	Federal and State VMOs who are, or will be, actively involved in the Bovine TB Eradication Program.
Time Requirements	3 days
Cost	Travel costs only
Contact	Dr. Robert Dickens, VS/PDS, (919) 855-7171
Nominations	All nominations must be sent from the Area Offices to the Regional Offices. The Regional Office will fax the approved prioritized nominations to VS/PDS, at (301) 734-4964. Selections will be made by VS/NAHPP.
Nomination Deadline	To the Regional Office: May 4, 2006 To VS/PDS: May 11, 2006

Pre-Determined Participant Courses Offered by the Professional Development Staff (PDS)*

Training Course	Dates of Training	Location	PDS Contact(s)
Pathologist Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) School	December 12 – 16, 2005	Plum Island, NY	Elizabeth Clark
Designated Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Epidemiology	May 1 – 5, 2006	Clay Center, NE	Richard Waite
Smith-Kilborne Program (Click Here)	May 30 – June 6, 2006	Cornell Univ./ Plum Island, NY	Jason Baldwin Nancy Platter
Advanced Johne's Disease Coordinators' Training	June 21 – 22, 2006	Portland, OR	Robert Dickens
Designated Brucellosis & Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemiology	August 15 – 17, 2006	Denver, CO	Robert Dickens Edward Oliver
Swine Health Protection Course	August 29 – 31, 2006	Raleigh, NC	Nancy Platter
Aquaculture	September 12 – 14, 2006	Eastport, ME	Robert Dickens
Live Bird Market Training	August 29 – 31, 2006	Minneapolis, MN	George Chambless

*** These courses have a pre-determined audience where nominations are not requested. If you feel that you should attend a particular pre-selected course, please follow the nomination process and notify your supervisor and area Training Coordinator listed on the first page of the catalog.**

